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Letter dated 19 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you the Final Communiqué of the Forum of Burundi's Development Partners, which was just held in Brussels on 13 and 14 January 2004.

At the close of the Forum, Burundi's international partners announced their intention to finance a total of 810 million euros, or US$ 1.032 billion to cover the following priority programme for the second phase of the transition:

- Economic recovery;
- Capacity-building for good governance;
- Repatriation of refugees and rehabilitation of *sinistrés* (survivors); and
- Establishment of a new defence and security force.

The President of the Republic, Mr. Domitien Ndayizeye, expressed his gratitude to Burundi's partners for their support to the peace process and asked me to tell you how much the Security Council's appeal for funds contributed to the success of the Forum's work.

The Government of Burundi requests the Council's support once again in ensuring that the amounts pledged are actually disbursed. It also hopes that, in the current phase, the Council will strengthen its support to the peace process in Burundi, particularly through the following actions:

- Takeover of the responsibilities of the African mission in Burundi (AMIB) by a United Nations peacekeeping operation; and
- Assistance in combating impunity.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and the communiqué contained in the annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marc **Nteturuye**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

04-21813 (E) 260104 260104

Annex to the letter dated 19 January 2004 from the Permanent Representative of Burundi to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Final communiqué

A Forum of Burundi's Development Partners was organized on 13 and 14 January 2004 in the Palais d'Egmont in Brussels. This meeting, following the international conference on Burundi held in Paris in December 2000 and the round tables held in Geneva in December 2001 and November 2002, was sponsored by the Government of the Kingdom of Belgium with technical support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The objective of the meeting was to introduce the international community to the emergency programme in the second phase of the transition, which should culminate in the adoption by referendum of a post-transition constitution and the organization of communal, legislative and presidential elections. This emergency programme deals with problems relating to budgetary and balance-of-payments support, capacity-building for good governance, reform of the defence and security corps, and the rehabilitation of *sinistrés* (survivors).

The delegation of Burundi was headed by His Excellency Mr. Domitien Ndayizeye, President of the Republic of Burundi. He was accompanied by Mr. Thérence Sinunguruza, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, Mr. Simon Nyandwi, Minister of the Interior, Mr. Vincent Niyungeko, Minister of Defence, Ms. Séraphine Wakana, Minister of Planning, Development and Reconstruction, Ms. Françoise Ngendahayo, Minister for Reintegration and Resettlement of Displaced Persons and Returnees, Mr. Antoine Butoyi, Minister of Peace Mobilization and National Reconciliation, Mr. Athanase Gahungu, Minister of Finance, Mr. Salvator Toyi, Governor of the Bank of the Republic of the Burundi, and senior officials of the Burundi civil service. The Conference deliberations were chaired by Her Excellency, Ms. Séraphine Wakana, Minister of Planning, Development and Reconstruction, Mr. Marc Verwilghen, Belgian Minister of Cooperation and Mr. Jacques Loup, Deputy Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa.

The following countries and organizations participated in this Conference: Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, United States of America and the Holy See; the European Commission, the Intergovernmental Agency for Francophonie, the African Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, the United Nations, Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi (Economic and Social Council), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), International Monetary Fund (IMF), Saudi Development Fund, Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), African Capacity-building Foundation (ACPF), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Labour Office (ILO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the African Union and the African mission in Burundi (AMIB), the secretariat of the Council of the European Union, the secretariat of the Multi-Country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme (MDRP), the African Union, and the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (HABITAT).

The Conference took note of the respective messages of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Belgium, the Minister for Development Cooperation of the Republic of Ireland on behalf of the European Union and the Minister for Development Cooperation and Francophony of the French Republic, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Burundi and the Chairman of the Arusha Agreement Implementation Monitoring Committee, the representative of the President of the African Union and the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group of the Economic and Social Council.

In their statements, the speakers mainly pointed out that this fourth Forum of Burundi's Development Partners came at a crucial time for the country's future because, as they stressed, today there is hope that peace, so long awaited by the Burundian people, will finally become a reality.

They also stressed that peace in Burundi will contribute to the stabilization of the region and that this country, which paid so dearly during the war and made tremendous sacrifices for peace, today deserves strong support from its partners to ensure the success of the second phase of the transition so that it might move from the humanitarian assistance phase towards that of sustainable development aid, a precondition for enduring peace and security.

Before delivering his solemn statement, the President of the Republic asked participants to observe a minute of silence in memory of the late Monseigneur, the papal nuncio, representing the Holy See in Burundi, who had been brutally murdered on a peace and reconciliation mission in Burundi.

In his opening statement, the President of the Republic enumerated his Government's achievements, within the context of implementing the Arusha Agreement, particularly with regard to alternating a Hutu and Tutsi at the helm of Government; the integration of the principal armed faction into national political and security institutions; and the establishment of a broad coalition Government.

He then presented the priority programme for the second phase of the transition in order to respond to major challenges, including a new defence and security force, the rehabilitation of *sinistrés* (survivors), economic recovery and capacity-building for good governance.

The participants noted with satisfaction the signing of the Global Ceasefire Agreement of 16 November 2003 and the Pretoria Protocol, which call for sharing political power and responsibility for defence and security with the Conseil National pour la Défense de la Démocratie — Forces pour la Défense e la Démocratie

(National Council for the Defence of Democracy — Forces for the Defence of Democracy) (CNDD-FDD) and its participation in all transitional institutions, and the fact that the Government and the Forces nationales de libération (FNL)-Rwasa expressed a mutual desire to enter into discussions.

The Conference expressed the wish that those achievements would lead to a comprehensive and lasting ceasefire and, to that end, urged the last armed movement to join the peace process without delay, in order that the Burundian people might fully benefit from the dividends of peace.

The participants noted with concern the profound deterioration in Burundi's economic, social and financial situation. In that regard, they were reassured by the reforms undertaken by the Government, with the support of the Bretton Woods institutions, with a view to establishing a triennial programme supported by the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (FRPC/PRGF).

This programme should enable Burundi to accede promptly to the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Debt Initiative (HIPC). In the same framework the Conference recommended that the Government of Burundi should be provided with budgetary and balance-of-payments support through rapid disbursement mechanisms. In exchange, the Government has already undertaken to ensure the transparent management of the resources placed at its disposal.

The Conference also urged Burundi's partners to find a lasting solution to the multilateral debt, in particular through significant contributions to the trust fund established for that purpose.

Regarding the arrears on the multilateral debt, the Conference encouraged the donors, including the ADB, to continue their efforts to find appropriate solutions.

The Conference commended the bilateral donors that have already agreed to cancel their debts, as well as those that have kindly agreed to contribute to the trust fund for the multilateral debt, and encouraged those that had not yet done so to follow suit.

The participants recognized that the programme on strengthening capacities for good governance was the backbone of the Arusha Agreement. To that end, they recommended that special attention be given to the electoral process, decentralization, strengthening of community capacities and the promotion, and protection of human rights.

Most of the partners indicated that they had already funded programmes to strengthen good governance and were willing to continue doing so.

The Conference stressed that the strengthening of capacities for good governance was a horizontal issue and, as such, should be considered in all activities conducted by the Government.

The Conference welcomed the progress achieved in providing support for the process of reforming the defence and security bodies, in particular through the establishment of a national disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration programme for ex-combatants in the framework of the Multi-country Demobilization and Reintegration Programme, the joint operations plan and the establishment of the African mission in Burundi and of the Joint Ceasefire Commission.

For a successful conclusion of the programme for the reform of the defence and security bodies, the Conference recommended the establishment of a committee of experts to advise the Government. The conference also recommended that a rapid solution be found for the perpetuation of a peacekeeping force, as far as possible under United Nations auspices, since the restoration of peace in Burundi could in the near future be jeopardized by the lack of an international armed force.

To that end, participants considered that the success of that programme was crucial to the consolidation of peace, and urged the partners to work together to provide the support needed for its implementation.

Regarding the National Programme for the Rehabilitation of *Sinistrés* (Survivors), the participants considered that the restoration of peace would entail a mass return of refugees, who would need to be accommodated.

The Conference took note of the establishment of national structures to carry out the programme and recommended that special attention be given to implementing the programme through the provision of institutional support to the National Commission for the Reinsertion of *Sinistrés* (Survivors) and through contributions to the National Fund for *Sinistrés* (Survivors).

The Conference considered that the Programme for the Rehabilitation of *Sinistrés* (Survivors) was one of the key success factors for the peace process and deserved special attention and appropriate support.

The participants recommended that the Government should take a few specific aspects into account in the preparation and execution of the programme:

(i) rational management of the land issue,

(ii) rehabilitation of production infrastructures,

(iii) peaceful cohabitation between resettled *sinistrés* (survivors) and those who stayed in the hills,

(iv) appropriate complementarity and coordination between the programme and other development programmes.

The participants were of the view that sustainable, indeed permanent, solutions to Burundi's emergency and development problems should be approached from a subregional perspective. They should contribute to and draw on subregional efforts to stabilize the Great Lakes region.

The Conference also recommended that special attention be given to good governance, a human rights culture and mine risk eradication. It encouraged the Government of Burundi to pursue its peace-building and democratization efforts. It also pledged its political, diplomatic and financial support.

Burundi's international partners announced their funding intentions, which amounted to €810 million, or US$ 1.032 billion. They indicated their willingness to continue their dialogue with the Government of Burundi in the framework of the round-table process.

The Conference underscored the importance of coordination of donors' activities, in which the Government was expected to play an important role. In that connection, the Conference decided to set up a committee to follow up the Forum of

Burundi's Development Partners, chaired by the Government and made up of government representatives and donors. The committee would meet monthly.

Until the final PRSP was ready, the partners felt that it would be advisable to establish, jointly, a "road map" linking the major programmes presented (demobilization, reform of the defence and security sectors, reintegration, reinsertion, strengthening of capacities, budgetary and balance-of-payments support, etc.), in order to define needs and make it possible to establish a rapid and coordinated response strategy. That document would be made available at the first meeting of the follow-up committee.

The participants also agreed to meet towards the end of the first quarter of 2004 in Bujumbura to further develop the following three themes:

Integrated trade framework,

Mobilization of funding for the electoral process,

Implementation of the programme for the rehabilitation of *sinistrés* (survivors)

Implementation of the programme of demobilization and reintegration in the framework of disarmament.

They also decided to meet annually, preferably in Bujumbura, in order to take stock of Burundi's political, economic and social evolution.

The "Writing the history of Burundi" project was the subject of a special session chaired by the Minister in charge of Peace Mobilization and Reconciliation in Burundi. It was agreed that UNESCO, together with the ministry in charge of the project, would follow up the session with the donors interested in funding the project.

Done at Brussels, 14 January 2004.